

## Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) Components ~~or arrangement with such components~~ in the form of panels or planks, which ~~may be coated on the top surface and/or underside with plastic laminates, etc., made of wood, wood products or wood-based products such as panels, sheets, floor panels, wooden siding and cladding, etc.,~~ in combination with at least one clip, whereby the components can be assembled in side-by-side relationship and held together by the clip.

- wherein ~~the longitudinal edges (7) of the components (1, 2) are provided with~~ have matching projections and/or recesses , ~~preferably tongues (5) and grooves (6), with by which adjacent the components (1, 2) can be joined;~~ ;
- wherein ~~in the underside (15) of each component has formed in the underside thereof respective longitudinal recesses extending (1, 2), parallel to the longitudinal edges; and if need be also parallel to the transverse edges (7), two groove-shaped recesses (8, 9, 8', 9') are formed to accommodate the~~
- wherein the clip has a base and first and second retaining elements extending upwardly from the base for engaging in the longitudinal recesses of the components at edge-proximate inside surfaces of the recesses to hold and press the components together; ~~(10, 12) of at least one clip (11) provided under the components (1, 2), with which clip the adjacent components (1, 2) are held together or pressed together by their edges (7); and~~
- ~~wherein the retaining elements (10, 12) extend or are bent upward from the clip base body (17);~~
- ~~wherein one of the two retaining parts (10) can be applied to the inside surface (13) proximate to the end edge of a recess (8, 9') of one component (1) and the other retaining element (12) can be applied to the edge-proximate inside surface (20) of a recess (8', 9) of the adjacent, joined component (2); and~~

• ~~wherein one of the retaining elements (10), preferably the retaining element (10) provided in recess (8) in the grooved edge, is a flange element extending or bent upward,~~

~~characterized in that~~

~~the other retaining element, which is adapted to engage in recess (8', 9) of the joined component (2), preferably in the recess (8', 9) near the tongued edge (7), is formed by a detent (12) whose free end section can, if need be, include an elastically or resiliently displaceable locking element (18), which in unstressed position extends diagonally upward from the clip base body (17) in the direction of the plane defined by edges (7) of components (1, 2), and which cantilevers or extends upward~~

• wherein the second retaining element is in the form of a detent having a main portion extending obliquely from the base and terminating at an upturned locking element, and the main portion is resiliently displaceable downwardly into the plane of the base.

2. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the main portion of the detent (12) in stressed condition or in locking position is or can be elastically turned, adjusted, pivoted or swivelled downward~~ extends from the base in a cantilever like manner for resilient downward swivel-like movement into or below the plane of the clip base (17).

3. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the two longitudinal recesses (8, 9) running parallel to the longitudinal edges (7) are mirror-symmetrical in relation to the longitudinal centre center plane of the corresponding component (1, 2).~~

4. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the clip base (17) carries~~ has a third retaining element extending upwardly therefrom and located between the upward extending flange first and second retaining elements, (10) and the detent (12) another flange

~~element (19) extending upward, which can be applied against the third retaining element is arranged for engaging a longitudinal edge (7) of one of the components (1) accommodating when the upward-extending first flange element (10), wherein if need be, the two flange elements (10, 19) are inclined toward each other and with surface (14) enclose the same angle between 60° and 80°, wherein the edge area (22) of edge (7), against which the flange element (19) can be applied, is inclined toward the surface (14) of the component (1, 2) at the same angle as the flange element (19) is engaged in the longitudinal recess adjacent the longitudinal edge.~~

5. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the first, second and third retaining elements~~ detent (12), the flange element (10) and the additional flange element (19) are punched out of the clip base (17) which is made of spring-elastic metal.

6. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the edge-proximate inside surfaces (13, 20) of the two each longitudinal recesses (8, 9) and one of the two transverse recesses (9')~~ against which the flange element (10) or the detent (12) can be applied, particularly with a deflected or bent locking element (18); and an upper surface of the component enclose an angle ( $\alpha$ ) smaller than 90°, preferably an angle between 50° and 80°, with the surface (14) of the component (1, 2); and that the edge-proximate inside surface (21) of the other transverse recess (8') against which the detent (12) can be applied, encloses an angle ( $\beta$ ) larger than 90°, preferably an angle between 110° and 130°, with the surface (14) of the component (1, 2).

7. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein when the main portion of the detent (12) is tilted displaced into the plane of the clip base body (17), the locking element (18) of the detent (12), with the surface (14) of the component (1, 2), and the base~~ encloses an angle which corresponds to the angle enclosed by the edge-proximate inside surface (13, 20) with the upper surface (14) of the component (1, 2).

8. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the edge-proximate edge-area (23) of the ~~recess (9) accommodating~~ inside surface of the recess intended to receive the second detent (12) is bevelled, reduced in size or rounded forms with a bottom surface of the component a corner surface that is sloped opposite the edge-proximate inside surface.

9. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ each component has transverse recesses extending parallel to transverse edges of the component, at least one of the transverse recesses has an edge-proximate inside surface extending from a bottom surface of the component to a height equal the height of the locking element relative to the base when the main portion is displaced downwardly into the plane of the base, and the edge-proximate inside surface (21) of one of the transverse recesses (8') can be applied against the detent (12) or its locking element (18), and that the locking element (18) of this detent (12) is inclined in the direction opposite to that of the surface (14) of the components (1, 2), that they each enclose different angles, whereby the outside end edge (25) of the edge-proximate inside surface (24) of said one recess (8') is closer to the transverse edge (7') of the corresponding component (1, 2) than the inside end edge (26) thereof.

10. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the edge-proximate inside surface (29) of the longitudinal recesses (8, 8', 9, 9') is rounded or runs is disposed at an angle ( $\gamma$ ) of incline between 15° and 40° , ~~preferably between 20° and 35°~~, in relation to the an upper surface (14) of the component.

11. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the edges (7) of the components have lower regions thereof that define therebetween a space when the components are held together by the clip (1, 2), which may have a plane underside (15) for lying on a plane underlay, adjoin each other at surface level but have a space between each other at bottom level (33).

12. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the centre plane of the clip (11) is vertically symmetrical in relation to the longitudinal direction of the components (1, 2) wherein the first and second retaining elements are spaced apart along a longitudinal axis of the clip that divides the clip into opposite halves, and the opposite halves are mirror-symmetrical in relation to the longitudinal axis of the clip.~~

13. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that in a clip base body (17), a multiple of flange elements (10, 19) and/or detents (12) are provided, lying side by side in a row wherein the first and second retaining elements are arranged in a row that extends parallel to a longitudinal axis of the clip.~~

14. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the detent (12) the main portion of the second retaining element is concavely bent downward.~~

15. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the main portion of the second retaining element is joined to the clip base at a connection area and the connection area has at least one recess (28) is formed therein in the transitional or connection area (38) between the detent (12) and the clip base body (17).~~

16. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that from wherein at least one of the edges (7) of a each component (1, 2), two legs extend, forming a groove (5) between them, and the other edge of the component has a complementary tongue projecting therefrom for mating with the groove in a next adjacent component that into this groove (5) a tongue (6) coming from one of the edges of the other component (2) can be inserted, whereby, if need be, the leg (4) at underside level is shorter than the leg (3) at top surface level.~~

17. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, characterized in that the main portion of the detent (12) extends diagonally upward from the clip base body (17) at an angle ( $\beta$ ) of 10° to 30°, preferably 15° to 25°.

18. (currently amended) ~~Components or arrangement~~ A combination according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the main portion of the detent (12) curves is curved and ends in at the locking element (18).

19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) ~~Clip for components or an arrangement according to Claim 1, characterized in that the clip (11) is provided with~~ A clip for components in the form of panels or planks that can be assembled in side-by-side relationship and held together by the clip, said clip comprising a base and at least two first and second upward projecting retaining elements (10, 12), one of which wherein the first retaining element is a flange element (10) bent upward from the clip base body (17), characterized in that and the other second retaining element (12) is formed by an elastically or a resiliently displaceable detent (12) extending upward from the base, whereby the detent (12), which may hold in its free end section an upward extending locking element (18), may in unstressed position extend from the clip base body (17) diagonally upward in the direction of the retaining element (10), and whereby between the upward extending flange element (10) and the detent (12), the clip base body (17) holds an additional flange element (19) that is also extending upward the detent having a main portion extending obliquely from the base and terminating at an upturned locking element, and the main portion is resiliently displaceable downwardly into the plane of the base, and wherein the clip base has a third retaining element extending upwardly therefrom and located between the first and second retaining elements, the third retaining element being arranged in opposition to the first retaining element for engaging a longitudinal edge of one of the components when the first flange element is engaged in a longitudinal recess adjacent the longitudinal edge.

21. (currently amended) ~~Clip A clip~~ according to Claim 20, ~~characterized in that in stressed position, wherein the detent (12) can be moved elastically from its stationary undisplaced position downward in the direction of the clip base body (17), or that it can be deflected or adjusted through the said clip base body.~~

22. (currently amended) ~~Clip A clip~~ according to Claim 20, wherein the third retaining element is a flange element bent upwardly from the base, and either one or both flange elements have at ~~characterized in that in the lateral end sections of the flange element (10) and/or the additional flange element (19), bent engagement elements, in particular hooked or pointed deflections (41) are formed.~~

23. (cancelled)

24. (new) An assembly comprising the combination according to claim 1, wherein the components are assembled in side-by-side relationship and held together by the clip.